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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 553
By Pinion

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Bryant Driver and the South Fulton High School boys' basketball team on winning the 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly appreciates the hard work, sense of purpose, and commitment to success that our great high school athletic teams demonstrate; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 South Fulton boys' basketball team, who won the prestigious 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament, is a source of tremendous pride for their school and their community; and

WHEREAS, during their memorable regular season, South Fulton compiled an outstanding 19-2 record; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team took the District 15-A Tournament title with victories against Gleason 70-36 and Greenfield 52-48 in overtime; and

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WHEREAS, despite strong competition, the Red Devils fought hard and emerged the winner of the important Region 8-A tournament, crushing Bradford 88-53 and Halls 66-47, and beating Lake County 57-55 in overtime; and

WHEREAS, South Fulton next won the West Sectional Competition, beating Greenfield 54-25 and Lake County 52-51 to earn a spot in the State Championship Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of the State Tournament, South Fulton used their signature tough defense to their maximum advantage; they limited Summertown to just 41% shooting from the field and posted an impressive 62-48 win; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial second round, the Red Devils used their speed, teamwork and fluid play to defeat Lookout Valley 78-73; and

WHEREAS, with the help of State Tournament Most Valuable Player **Trey Peterson**, who, although only a sophomore, performed with the agility and determination of a seasoned veteran and scored 23 points, the South Fulton contingent beat an outstanding Cosby High School squad 57-45 in the finals to take home championship laurels; and

WHEREAS, although making their third consecutive appearance in the State Tournament, this was the first State Tournament championship for the Red Devils; and

WHEREAS, their superb overall season record was 28-2, with the two losses coming to two Class AA teams. Their enviable winning percentage was .933; and

WHEREAS, though small in stature and sometimes overlooked by the “experts,” the South Fulton players have proven themselves to be large in heart with a strong determination to win; and

WHEREAS, **Coach Bryant Driver** and his fine **Assistant Coaches Keith Frazier**, who also serves as school Athletic Director, and **Curt Lee** have performed their duties with extraordinary diligence and dedication; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Trey Peterson, two other star players, junior **B. J. Gordon** and senior **Bryan Doty** made the All-State Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, each of the other members of the squad, seniors **Jerrod Nelms, Craig Dame, Robert Bailey**; junior **Chris Jennings**; sophomores **William Adams, Michael Waycaster, Justin Taylor, and Tyler Fields**; and freshmen **Clarence Cobb, Rick Larson, Michael Tibbs, and Ryan Graves**, has played a crucial role in the overall success of the team this championship season; and

WHEREAS, the team's managers were: **Chase Elliot and Wayne Isbell**; the statisticians were **Wesley Hollingsworth, Angie Strickland, and Rachel Sanders**; and the camera was operated by **David Hazelwood**; and

WHEREAS, other strong supporters include **Superintendent Donna Neblette, Principal Donnie Braswell and Assistant Principal Chuck Seratt**; and

WHEREAS, under the dynamic leadership of cheerleader sponsors **Nancy Hall and Diane Boyd**, the cheerleaders who provided excellent support for the team were: **Hailey Brown, Katy Connell, April Gray, Leslie Green, Carmen Greer, Alisha Hodge, Terika Ingram, Melissa Jones, Lauren Macklin, Delana McDaniel, Jennifer Melton, and Clara Sanders**; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to salute the many accomplishments of this team of destiny; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Bryant Driver and the South Fulton High School boys' basketball team on the completion of an excellent season and on winning the 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Championship and wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.